

Sheep

Leader or Facilitator, thank you so much for the leadership you are providing. At this point you are starting to get to know the members of your class. Some may be familiar to you, some not. In either case, how they are responding in the class period is giving you the opportunity to regard them in ways you might not be familiar with. In any case you are discovering who is quiet, who is talkative, who is speaking to the material, who tends to wander off. Your job is to keep the class addressing what is being presented, coming up with their comments about it and perhaps personal issues relating to it. Nothing said is to be regarded as something to denounce but as seen as coming out of someone's experience. Neither is it to be allowed to redirect the class period. So you are the one to help the discussion to get back on topic. Also remember the need to remind the class to keep confidential anything of a personal nature that is shared. We want to be able to trust each other.

The topic for this session is "Sheep". Most of us raising children have paid attention to their behavior. Here we are paying attention to their vulnerability, their inexperience, their lack of defenses. The apostle Paul in I Corinthians 13:11 writes, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me." What this tells us is children in growing up do not think or see the world the way an adult does. Practically, this tells us they are not ready for all they will face as they live in this world. Proverbs 1 tells us they may be simple minded, naïve, foolish, easily tricked. Important as this is to regard, the reality is that most of us family leaders tend to notice more what their behaviors and attitudes are like, not their vulnerabilities. Wolves concentrate on how a sheep or in this case, a young person is vulnerable.

So, we might not be so much in tune with how they are vulnerable and unprepared to be wise and prudent in their decision making. They can often be tricked, deceived and set-up by clever "wolves". This lesson is helping participants comes to terms with the need to prepare their offspring to be ready for the people and situations they will encounter. For that to happen it means good bonding. Solid relationships with family leaders need to developed. This will enable the sharing of faith, warnings, wisdom, and skills to take hold.

As facilitator of this session, you are challenged to be the catalyst for transformation in the thinking of the participants to take place. The Holy Spirit must be in this. Therefore it is of real consequence that you go into the lesson prepared for this kind of transformation to happen.

As leader or facilitator make sure you do seven things.

1. Go back and review briefly the Leader's Guide for Session One.
2. Prepare by yourself filling out the questionnaire you have handed out on "sheep".
3. Read through the written material for Session Three
4. Review the power point you will be going through with the class.
5. Write down any examples from your own life and thinking that touches on what this session is about.



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6. Pray for each person in the course.
7. Print off the supplemental material of the Ways Youth Can Be Vulnerable and the questionnaire leading to Session 4 on Shepherd. Both of these could be handed out. The one on sheep early and the questionnaire for Session Four at the end of the class.

Remember, if you have questions or concerns you can always call 612-708-1875 to discuss these.